(i) conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans; (ii) rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments; (iii) provision of additional need based crop loans working capital and (iv) relaxation in security and margin norms. The guidelines also envisage provision of consumption loans upto Rs. 1,000/-. The rates of interest are to be charged by the banks as per the directives on interest rates issued by RBI from time to time. However, those borrowers who meet the eligibility criteria under the Scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) are to be provided credit in accordance with the DRI scheme. In respect of current dues in default, no penal interest will be charged. The banks also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

The above guidelines were issued to enable the banks to take uniform and concrete action expeditiously, particularly to provide financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, aritisans, small businesses and trading establishments affected by natural calamities in any part of the country, including the State of Assam. However, the existing data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for.

Export of Groundnut

5767. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of groundnut exported and oreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether there is any scope for exporting groundnut to European Union; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total quantity and value of groundnut exported during the last three years is as under :

Quantity : in Metric tonnes
Value : in Rs. Crores

Year	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	254207	171.12
1994-95	51123	101.32
1995-96 (P)	1000953	224.35

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India Published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Satistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Some of the steps taken to enhance exports are :

(i) dissemination of information on international quality standards to exporters/processors;

(ii) participation in International seminars/workshops;

(iii) sponsoring delegations abroad;

(iv) arranging buyer seller meets; and

(v) participation in international trade fairs.

[Translation]

Export of Inferior Quality of Rice to Bangladesh

5768. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether inferior quality of rice has been exported to Bangladesh during April, 1996;

(b) if so, whether it is likely to affect the bilateral and commercial relations between the two countries; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons/establishment found guilty in this regard and to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A few complaints have been received alleging supply of inferior quality fo rice which are presently under investigation.

In respect of cases where it is established that actually sub-standard goods have been exported, immdiate deterrent action is initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992, and the Rules framed thereunder against the concerned exporters, for cancellation/suspension of Importer-Exporter Code Number of the party concerned, without which imports or exports cannot be undertaken by him, and for imposition of fiscal penalties.

Such isolated incidents would not effect the relations between the two countries.

[English]

Despatch of Coal

5769. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the quantum of coal despatched by different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited for each of the last five years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : Coal despatched by